

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7307

Investigation into Vermont Electric Utilities')
Use of Smart Metering and Time-Based Rates)

Order entered: 7/12/2007

SCHEDULING ORDER

The Department of Public Service ("Department") proposed a series of workshops to examine the issues set out in its petition. The Department stated that it intended to hire a consultant to examine each of those issues. At the Prehearing Conference I accepted the Department's proposal and scheduled the first workshop for July 18, 2007. Subsequently, the Department advised by letter filed July 6, 2007, that it had selected Freeman, Sullivan & Co. ("FSC") to serve as its consultant in this matter. The Department believes it would be highly beneficial for all parties if FSC could be present at the workshop, but FSC is not available to attend the scheduled workshop on July 18. Instead, the Department proposes that the first workshop be delayed until the week of August 13. I find this delay to be reasonable. The workshop scheduled for July 18 will be rescheduled to Thursday, August 16, commencing at 9:30 a.m.¹ The workshop will be held in the Public Service Board's hearing room located on the 3rd floor of the Chittenden Bank Building in Montpelier, Vermont.

At the Prehearing Conference we discussed whether to expand the scope to examine alternative rate designs, as required by a provision of H.520. That bill has now been vetoed. Nonetheless, the Board still retains the authority under 30 V.S.A. § 218(b) to put in place rate designs that encourage energy efficiency. Therefore, notwithstanding the fact that H.520 was not enacted, the parties should be prepared at the workshop to discuss whether to expand the scope of this docket to examine alternative rate designs.

1. Although it was not specifically discussed at the prehearing conference, I expect that the Department will take the lead in developing an agenda for the workshop and will consult with other parties in preparing that agenda.

SO ORDERED.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 12th day of July, 2007.

s/George E. Young
George Young, Esq.
Hearing Officer

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: July 12, 2007

ATTEST: s/Susan M. Hudson

Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)